

Guard House of Fort Mackinac,
Mackinac Island, Mackinac County,
Michigan.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Michigan

Historic American Buildings Survey
F. Orla Varney, District Officer
313 Garfield Bldg., Detroit, Mich.

GUARD HOUSE OF FORT MACKINAC
Mackinac Island, Mackinac Island
Michigan

OWNER: State of Michigan.

CUSTODIAN: Mackinac Island State Park Commission -
Mr. Manferd Burleigh, Chairman.

DATE OF ERECTION: Approximately 1828.

ARCHITECT: Unknown

BUILDERS: American artisans and soldiers attached to Fort Mackinac.

PRESENT CONDITION: Good.

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION: Squared 8x8 timber frame mortised and tenoned together with vertical studs between the up-rights. Roof of rough squared rafters with wide boards and wood shingles. Foundation of limestone with a stone walled shallow pit or dungeon under one end.

OTHER EXISTING RECORDS: References are made in the records of the War Department from 1796 to 1853.

ADDITIONAL DATA: The present guard house occupies the site of the original log structure erected by the British shortly after the building of the fort on the island in 1781. The location of each succeeding building after the burning or destruction of the former has always been fixed by the pit hollowed out of the limestone. This 8 by 9 pit or dungeon, as it is called, is undoubtedly original. It is but 5-1/2 feet deep. The present structure dates, I believe from about 1828. It contains a guard room, which was originally equipped with gun racks and bunks, and a cell room. The latter is lined with 2" plank. The trap door entrance to the pit is in the floor of the guard room.

The above data was taken from a report compiled by the writer on the history of Fort Mackinac. It was prepared for the National Park Service during 1934 and entailed months of careful research.

(Signed) "Warren L. Rindge"
District Officer
November 10, 1936.

FW *9/1/37*
F. Orla Varney
District Officer - May 3, 1937.